

Dear FCC,

It has recently come to my attention that the NAB is petitioning to ban XM Radio from delivering localized traffic reports and prevent them from offering other local programming to my area. I would like to voice my opinion on this matter and hopefully persuade you to reject this petition.

The greatest problem I have in my travels is that when I reach a large city I have no way of knowing how long it will take me to travel through the area. I do not know if the beltways or a direct route is quickest because I am normally not familiar with the traffic patterns. Before I used to have to scan through the local radio stations hoping to find information on current traffic. Most of the time, I did not get information that was useful. Since I installed an XM Radio in my car and they started their Instant Traffic report channels, I have not had this problem.

I can switch over to the station for that city and get detailed reports on the area. I am sure that on a larger scale this could help the city, because the drivers are getting informed of where not to go so that traffic problems are not compounded.

As to other possible broadcasts. Currently, I could subscribe to Cable or Satellite Television. With either, I can choose to pay more money and have additional programming that is targeted to my area delivered. At the same time, I can also choose to just watch the free broadcast Television. I feel the same applies to Radio. I have the choice to listen to broadcast Radio and be bound to the limits of it, or I can pay for the Satellite Radio because I feel I get more value from it. In the Television market, cable and satellite providers are not required to block local traffic because they are a national provider. In fact, they are required to provide local content for the purpose of emergency broadcasting. So why would we try to block satellite radio from carrying localized broadcasts?

I feel that this is once again an old company trying to use its power to prevent new technology from making it obsolete. I feel that the same battle is currently happening with the RIAA. To block technology from improving the quality of service just to benefit one group is not right. If an old company's business model fails, it is not the responsibility of the government to support it. Please reject petition 04-160.

Respectfully,

Michael Gilliam